

# INFORMATION REPORT

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Foreign Affairs of the DDR

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1. The first indication of an impending purge within the DDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs was contained in a speech given 29 April 1950 by Florin, chief of the Ministry's Political Affairs Department, in honor of the "International Labor Day" (1 May). The speech lasted nearly two hours and culminated in awarding the "activist" title (and 300 DM East) to 25 persons, i.e., to every fourth employee of the Ministry. Florin's theme was "Watchfulness", against "the imperialistic Anglo-American spy and betrayer of the laboring class" who is "lying just outside the door to receive with open arms" those who are not on guard or are weak or indifferent. The speech included the usual Communist slogans: "Fight for Peace", "Fight against the war-mongering Anglo-Saxons", "Devote yourself to the great protector of the world's progress, the Soviet Union, which created a new society, new production records and is leading the world in new inventions, new art and new literature." "Devote yourself to the great leader, the genius Stalin." Florin concluded with a call for the elimination of indifference and apathy and for initiation of ever greater watchfulness and "activism."
2. During the first week of May it became evident that Florin's speech was not merely a routine reiteration of slogans, but was to become the basis for practical application of the policies contained in the speech. In the beginning of May Rudolf Helmer, a member of the School Section and chief of the Ministry's SED Shop Group, informed individual employees of the Ministry that he and the SED which he represents will see to it that no anti-SED sentiments and actions and no bourgeois laxity are tolerated. He summarily dismissed (fnu) Kautz who had openly prided himself on his political indifference. He also subjected (fnu) Meusel of the legal department, an SED member, to a public reprimand for the latter's failure to participate in discussions and self-criticism during the SED Shop Group meetings. Helmer, in his reproach to Meusel, stressed the fact that while a non-party member may be praised for his work and awarded the title of "activist", much more is expected of the party member, who must daily prove his activism. Meusel was warned that unless he improves he will be subjected to disciplinary action by the party."

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3. In his talks with individual employees, Helmer reminded them that they should always be cautious in their conversations outside the office, should, with the exception of those who must pass through it on their way to and from the Ministry, avoid going to West Berlin, and that each of them should observe the actions and words of his friends and fellow-workers and report all violations. As a result of Helmer's warning all employees are now expected to act as voluntary informers: only thus can they demonstrate their "democratic" sentiments and be certain of retaining their positions.
4. Although several politically indifferent non-SED employees will doubtless be dismissed from the Ministry in the next few weeks, the real purge will be directed against the non-activist SED members in the hope that the purified SED element will act as a catalyst on the whole Ministry.

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It is a well known fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is "contaminated" by bourgeois personnel brought into the Ministry inadvertently or by design by the CDU Minister. No one has expected that such a state of affairs would be allowed to continue indefinitely. That it was permitted to exist until now was doubtless based on the SED National Front policy requiring support (or at least non-resistance) from the remnants of the Soviet Zone bourgeois parties (CDU and LDP). Now, however, due to Dertinger's de facto defection to the SED, the Central Secretariat of the SED evidently feels that it can initiate a purge of the undesirable persons in the Ministry without seriously interfering with the National Front unity policy.

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